



Newsletter

of the American Magnolia Society

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'Spring Snow' and 'Ballerina', Two New Cultivars of the Loebner Magnolia

JOSEPH C. MCDANIEL
Urbana, Illinois

Two cultivars from Illinois will add variety to the Loebner magnolia, which in American horticulture has been represented principally by the increasingly popular 'Merrill', an origination of the Arnold Arboretum. Each of the two new clones has flowers of greater fragrance than 'Merrill', plus several other distinctions. One, 'Spring Snow', is the parent of the other, 'Ballerina', which appears to be the first worthwhile F_2 clone brought to notice in this interspecific or intervarietal hybrid group.

Taxonomists are not yet in agreement as to whether *M. stellata* is a distinct species. Some now consider it only a variety of the more widely occurring (in Japanese woods) *M. Kobus*. Dr. Benjamin Blackburn (originator of *M. × Loebneri* 'Willowwood') has presented arguments in favor of an *M. Kobus* with three or four varieties: *Kobus*, *borealis*, *stellata* and *Loebneri*. Others have cast doubts on the distinctness of *borealis* as a variety. According to Dr. A. Orville Dahl's recent review of *Ornamental Shrubs for Canada* by Sherk and Buckley (1968), the taxonomic treatment in the forthcoming *Hortus Third* will "find the old favorite *Magnolia stellata* listed as *M. kobus stellata*."

Regardless of the present or future nomenclatural status of the parents, it has been proved both in Germany and in the United States that controlled crosses between typical *M. Kobus* and the smaller plant we have usually called *M. stellata* will give intermediate height seedlings,

with flowers also intermediate and usually as fertile as either parent, both of which are diploids. *M. × Loebneri* forms (to follow the recent nomenclature) have also arisen frequently in America where open-pollinated *M.*



Fig. 1. Original tree of *M. Kobus* \times *Loebneri* 'Spring Snow' at Urbana, Illinois.



Fig. 2. 'Spring Snow' flowers on original tree.

stellata seeds were sown. This has been particularly true where the *stellata* seed parent was in reasonable proximity to a flowering tree of the taller *Kobus*. My own experience at Urbana, where typical *Kobus* was not known to be in flower before 1969, is that *stellata* seeds ('Waterlily' and 'Rubra' clones) give seedlings which closely approximate the seed parent in leaf size and rate of growth, at least. This indicates to me that crossing with a larger growing *Kobus* clone is probably necessary in order to get *Loebneri* seedlings from *stellata* seeds.

This experience, and observations elsewhere, cause me to differ with Dr. Blackburn on the botanical interpretation of the Loebner magnolias. In 1969 correspondence, he indicates that he still has the same opinion as in 1957 when he wrote, in *Baileya* 5 (1):3-13 on "The Early-flowering Magnolias of Japan." I quote from p. 10:

"The plants described as hybrids under the name *M. × Loebneri* (*M. Kobus* \times *M. stellata*) would seem to be only a segment of the intergrading individuals between typical *M. Kobus* and *M. Kobus* var. *stellata*. This anomalous group favors *Kobus* in habit of growth and produces flowers with 6 to 14 petals. Unless hybridity can be proved, it seems desirable that clones attributed to this combination be assigned to typical *M. Kobus*." On p. 11 he quotes the late Dr. Tomitaro Makino on the native occurrence of *stellata*. Dr. Makino wrote that they could find it native only in the areas of Owari and Mikawa. "Owari and Mikawa make up a small district east of Nagoya in central Japan—the section where it was collected by Tschonoski, the skilled Japanese assistant of Maximowicz," Blackburn wrote.

'Spring Snow' apparently is one of those *Loebneri* clones resulting from open-pollinated *stellata* seeds. At the President's Garden of the University of Illinois, the original landscape plan in 1931 called for two *M. stellata* plants. The two plants are still there, but they are not a matched pair. Each is a distinctly different white flowered clone of *Loebneri*. Their nursery source is unknown,

but the most likely assumption is that the landscaper chose two of the more vigorous trees in a plot of *stellata* seedlings, and got what were actually hybrids.

The slightly shorter tree to the east regularly opens its first flowers (mainly with 9 tepals) a few days ahead of the other, and they regularly deteriorate quickly. The westerly tree, now mature at about 8 meters (30 feet) is the original 'Spring Snow' (Figs. 1, 2). It flowers from about the first week in April, with diminishing numbers of flowers often to as late as the beginning of May, but with a shorter season if April is unusually warm. In most seasons here, the last spring snowfall covers the earlier flowers briefly, but seldom damages the good display. At Seimmes, Mobile County, Alabama, the 'Spring Snow' flowering season can start as early as the first week of January.

The flowers of 'Spring Snow' have all-white, slightly rugose showy tepals, ranging around 15 per flower, with their length around 7.5 cm. and breadth between 3 and 4 cm. Neither tepals nor stamens show any pink pigmentation. As the flowers age, the tepals tend to reflex somewhat beyond the horizontal. There is a pleasant flower fragrance. Seed production usually is abundant. In Alabama trials, 'Spring Snow' has not rooted from cuttings as readily as 'Merrill'.

Some neighbors to the President's Garden transplanted self-sown seedlings before 1950, and had flowers on them by the early 1960's, of similar color but none with quite as good form, and usually with fewer tepals. Several 'Spring Snow' seedlings I started in 1960 were flowering on the Horticulture Farm of the University in 1968, and more began flowering in 1969. The seeds I planted could have been selfed, crossed with the adjacent seedling *Loebneri*, or possibly with a plant of *M. stellata* 'Waterlily' across the street north of the President's Garden. While

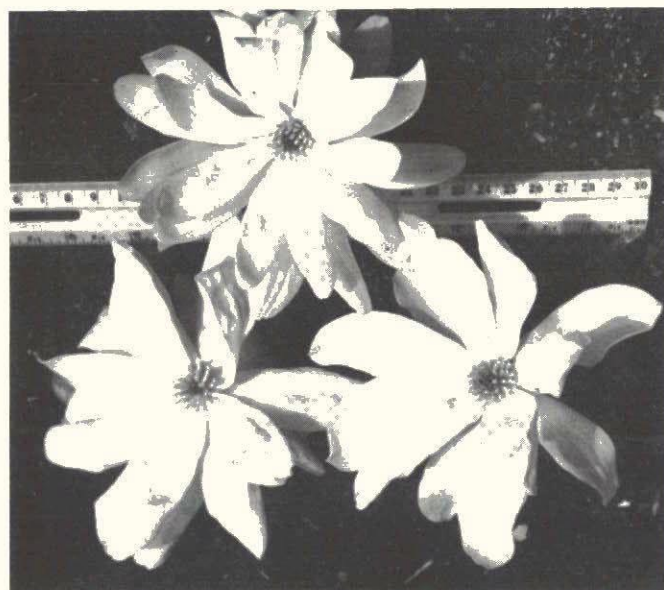


Fig. 3. Three Loebner Magnolia flowers compared: 'Ballerina' (top). 'Spring Snow' (lower left) and 'Merrill'.



Fig. 4. 'Ballerina' (right) and 'Waterlily' flowers.

all of this seedling lot have foliage and growth rate in the *Loebneri* range, most are inferior to the parent in flower quality. Some have flowered with as few as 6 showy tepals (like typical *Kobus*) and about half in 1969 showed some pink on their tepals, a characteristic seen in many *Kobus* seedlings.

The one with most numerous tepals (to more than 30 on some flowers) also had light pink coloration near the base of tepals, inside and out, and a more pronounced fragrance than 'Spring Snow'. It is finer twigged than most other trees in its seedling lot, but among the taller half of them at 3 meters in August, 1969. Whether it is strictly an F_2 *Loebneri*, a combination of *stellata*, it still classifies as *M. \times Loebneri*, a combination of *Kobus* and *stellata*. Its ultimate height, like that of 'Spring Snow', promises to be shorter than that of 'Merrill' trees. Both its flower and plant characteristics are distinctive enough to warrant its propagation for more extensive trial. When it proved to root quickly from indolebutyric acid-treated leafy cuttings stuck under mist on May 5, it was decided to name it and distribute wood to commercial propagators in 1969. The name chosen for it is *M. \times Loebneri* 'Ballerina'. (It was selected during the opening festivities at the University's new Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.)

'Ballerina', 'Spring Snow' and 'Merrill' flowers are compared in Fig. 3. Another illustration (Fig. 4) shows a 'Ballerina' flower in comparison with the 'Waterlily' *stellata* as grown in an Urbana nursery. Fig 5 compares leafy shoots, with fruits.

Both 'Spring Snow' and 'Ballerina' are believed to be of similar hardiness to 'Merrill', a *Magnolia* which succeeds in gardens as far north as St. Paul, Minnesota. 'Spring Snow', like 'Merrill', also has a good performance record southward to Georgia and coastal Alabama. 'Spring

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'Snow' in 1969 was propagated on the Pacific Coast, where 'Merrill' is already in extensive nursery production.

'Spring Snow' plants are available in limited quantity in the Southeastern states and from one English nursery (Treseders' at Truro, Cornwall). The Tennessee Valley Nursery, Winchester, Tennessee can supply scions to other wholesale propagators. Because of the limited supply now available, I am limiting initial cutting and scion distribution of 'Ballerina' to commercial propagators and arboreta. It is hoped that 'Ballerina' plants will be available at retail by 1971-72.



Fig. 5. Leafy shoots with fruits
Top: 'Merrill' (left) and 'Waterlily'
Bottom: 'Spring Snow' (left) and 'Ballerina'.

My Experience in Growing Magnolias in Southern Illinois

H. B. BAUMAN
Harrisburg, Illinois

AFTER KEEPING SOMEWHAT ACCURATE NOTES for ten years on the performance of Magnolias in our area, I should like to write something regarding their success in the area of Southern Illinois. Seldom does the winter temperature fall below 5 degrees in this part of Illinois. This area is subject to the extremes of heat and cold, drought and moisture. The late growing season has been marked by drought more than plentiful moisture in the last ten years. Spring comes early to our area, but this season is subject to extreme fluctuation. The spring of 1966 was more or less typical of our spring seasons. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed two weeks prior to March 23rd. In fact, there was but one frost of 28 degrees during that time. By March 23rd all the precocious Magnolias were in bloom: *M. × Soulangiana*, *M. denudata*, *M. denudata* 'Elongata', *M. denudata* 'Purpliana', *M. amabilis*, *M. 'Rustica Rubra'*, *M. 'Rustica Rosea'* *M. Kobus* and all the stellatas.

The later blooming varieties are usually successful, if not bud-killed during the winter. In spite of the chances a gardener takes in growing precocious Magnolias, I feel that a crop one year in five is worth waiting for. The spring of '68 gave a bountiful profusion of bloom, both the early and late varieties.

I shall endeavor to list the Magnolias with which I have been successful, also those with which I have had some success and those with which I have been unsuccessful. *M. × Soulangiana* grows like a weed in any kind of soil. Its only fault is that it usually is ruined by frosts and freezes. The richer the soil and the more acid the soil the rosier the blooms, has been my observation. Of this *Soulangiana* group of hybrids, I have these remarks to make regarding their values as they perform for me. *Soulangiana* 'Alba' performs as the parent, but I have never had one that was pure white. 'Brozzonii' I regard as tops. It blooms late and has three periods of bloom which last for at least six weeks. This is rank one for me. The blooms are large, at least 10" in diameter, very fragrant, white with purplish bottom, half with deep purple veining. It has never been ruined by late frost.

M. 'Alexandrina', in spite of its middle season bloom, often is bud-winter killed. When it isn't ruined, I regard it as a most worthwhile Magnolia. The tree is of a rather upright habit, with large deep red, purple-veined blossoms that stand upright on the branches. A tree of 'Alexandrina' in bloom is most spectacular.

M. 'Lennei' does not thrive for me as it should. It seems very sensitive to soil alkalinity and of the hot dry conditions in the summer. The growth seems rather

stunted with yellowing of the foliage. The blossoms are of poor quality as they are pinched as if attacked by thrip infestation. I regard this Magnolia as only of fair success with me.

'*Rustica Rubra*' and '*Rustica Rosea*' are so similar that it is difficult to differentiate between them; the blooms are not spectacular and because of their gaunt growth habits, if not trimmed frequently, I would not recommend these for the small garden, when there are so many more worthwhile Magnolias. My plants of *Sprengeri* 'Diva' are not large enough for bloom performance but they don't seem to enjoy much growth during our hot dry summers. 'Lilliputian', a cut-down-sized *Soulangiana*, never fails to give an abundance of bloom. It is a mid-season performer and never winter kills nor is it affected by late freezes. Its value is its dependable performance, abundance of bloom and the small size (8 ft.) tree at maturity with a width of 6 ft. 'Verbanica' is an excellent performer as to growth and bloom, however, it has little to recommend it over *M. × Soulangiana* other than later bloom. I would prefer a late blooming *Soulangiana* to 'Verbanica'.

Two Magnolias that I highly recommend, that I regard as mid-season performers, are 'Lombardy Rose' and 'Grace McDade'. They are dependable performers. At the risk of appearing immodest, I have never seen the

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M. grandiflora 'St. Mary'			48" 10.00
M. Kobus		24" 7.50	
M. × Loebneri 'Merrill'		36" 15.00	
M. macrophylla*			
	12" 7.50	24" 10.00	60" 15.00
M. salicifolia		36" 10.00	60" 15.00
M. Sargentiana 'Robusta'		24" 12.50	60" 20.00
M. sinensis		24" 12.00	36" 15.00
M. × Soulangiana 'Lennei'		24" 7.50	
M. Sprengeri 'Diva'*			
	12" 7.50	24" 10.00	
M. stellata		36" 10.00	
M. × Thompsoniana			
	15" 10.00		
M. tripetala		36" 7.50	60" 10.00
M. × Veitchii		24" 12.50	60" 20.00
M. virginiana		24" 7.50	36" 10.00
M. × Watsonii	12" 10.00	36" 20.00	
M. Wilsonii*	12" 7.50	24" 10.00	

Many of our Magnolias are on their own roots, some are propagated by grafting. Most are container grown, shifted frequently so not rootbound. They are thrifty, well grown plants. *Special rates available.

equal of these two Magnolias of mine for size and color. 'Lombardy Rose' has 10" bloom, very light blue-toned red in the inside cup; the cup which always stands upright and whose exterior is of a very rosy hue. I have several and my oldest plant is exceptional when compared with other hybrids. 'Grace McDade' had blooms 14" in diameter by actual measurement, predominantly white with the lower half of purplish rose and the top half white heavily streaked with wide purple veining, reaching almost to the top of the petals. 'Lombardy Rose' has a small offering of bloom from spring to October; while 'Grace McDade' is not so generous in length of blooming period. I do not know if my tree of 'Grace McDade' is of the late B. Y. Morrison's original stock or not, as it was obtained from an eastern nursery.

Kobus and all the *stellata* hybrids are very dependable performers in spite of later frosts. *Tripetala* makes spectacular growth and blooms profusely at a very early age. It is a disappointment only to those who think that all Magnolia blossoms are fragrant. Another very worthwhile Magnolia is *denudata* 'Purpliana', which blooms just a bit later than the precocious ones and usually escapes complete ruin. The big rosy pink blossoms are most beautiful. A most desirable Magnolia, in spite of its early habit of bloom, is *denudata* 'Elongata', with its 10" blooms of purest waxy white and its purple stamens. The fragrance resembles that of *M. grandiflora*. I regard this one so highly that it merits a planting in a protected place, somewhat shaded in order to retard its early bloom performance. Mine is planted on the north side of a row of tall cedars. It is now ten years old and I have enjoyed three seasons of undamaged blossoms.

The following Magnolias will not thrive for me in this area: *obovata*, *Fraseri*, *mollicomata*, *Campbellii*, *Watsonii*, *Sieboldii*, *Sargentiana* 'Robusta' and *cordata*. I have tried growing these and most of them will not live through the first summer. *Obovata* will leaf out beautifully in early spring and there seems to be hope for successful growth, only to be disappointed when the leaves burn and curl as soon as the temperature rises above 85 degrees.

Other Magnolias that are growing well but too young for bloom are: *pyramidata*, \times *Veitchii* 'Rubra', *acuminata*, *macrophylla*, and \times *Loebneri*. If I were to choose the ten most valuable Magnolias for our area I would choose them in this order: 'Brozzonii', 'Lombardy Rose', 'Grace McDade', 'Alexandrina', *denudata* 'Purpliana', *denudata* 'Elongata', late blooming *Soulangiana*, *stellata* hybrids, 'Amabilis' and 'Gracilis'. I have purposely included only the deciduous group. *M. grandiflora* does very well here if planted in such location that it will be protected from winter sun and southwest wind.

Since this article is becoming too lengthy I shall conclude by stating that I have included only those that are most successful here in Southern Illinois. There are 55

species, subspecies, with their hybrids, growing in my garden. Some have not yet bloomed, as I have mentioned earlier, and some have not thrived in their young period of growth, but I feel that growing Magnolias is a challenging pastime and that most of them will thrive and bloom here in our part of the state; the variable temperatures here in early spring is our greatest hindrance to success with Magnolias, along with the extremes of drought and the extremes in summer temperatures.

New Members Since Memphis Meeting

(continued from Vol. 6, No. 2)

- McCoy, Mr. L. Dean, 215 McDonald Pl., Webster Groves, Mo. 63119.
McCurdy, Mr. Dale, 315 Sunset Ave., Aurora, Ill. 60506.
Melnick, Mrs. W. B., Rte. 5, Box 532 Asheville, N.C. 28803.
Merrills Nursery, 870 Madison Ave., Painesville, Ohio 44077.
Michel, Mr. Ray, 7243 Derstan Rd., Indianapolis, Ind. 46250.
Pagliettini, Mr. Frank, 977 Rutland St., San Francisco, Calif. 94134.
Randolph, Mr. Jack M., 1690 New Brownsville Hwy., Jackson, Tenn.
Reiter, Mr. Victor, 1195 Stanyan St., San Francisco, Calif. 94117.
Sanderson, Mrs. Donovan F., 717 - 15th St., Bellingham, Wash. 98225.
Simons, C. Edward, Jr., M.D., 22420 Dogwood Lane, Edmonds, Wash. 98020.
Snowden, Mrs. Robert B., Horseshoe Plantation, Hughes, Ark.
Wells, Mr. Edwin A., 16040 - 35th Ave. N.E., Seattle, Wash. 98155.
Wells, Mr. George, R.F.D. 1, Kinsman, Ohio 44428.
Whiteside, Mr. Wesley, R. R. 1, Charleston, Ill. 61920.
Whatley, Booker T., Prof. Plant & Soil Science, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala. 36088.

Errata

(Vol. 6, No. 2)

Page 6, left, par. 2—The two lines:

own, with the neighboring pure *Sargentiana*, and,

(B) because the flower of the 'Diva' is on the small side." belong on Page 4, col. 2, par. 4 following sentence beginning with (A)

Georgia's Largest (?) Magnolia

MAJOR C. COLLINS
Route 1, Box 251, Tifton, Georgia 31794

(Reprinted from the Tifton News-Examiner)

Right here near Tifton is a *Magnolia grandiflora* tree that measures fifteen feet eleven inches in circumference two feet from the ground, and is estimated to be sixty-five feet tall. The branch spread is seventy-eight feet. This tree branches out into large limbs real low, making it necessary to measure trunk circumference at the two foot height. The trunk is not round and smooth, and being irregular, the only way to measure it is around the various irregularities that project out at some points.

The way I figure it, allowing one-fourth inch increase a year in diameter, the estimated age is 252 years.

At any rate, here we have a tree that could easily lay claim to the title of Georgia's largest *Magnolia* tree, and possibly of the South. Also, it could be the oldest tree of this species. It is plain that we have here a major tourist attraction, and surely such a tree should be preserved for its unique size, spread and age, even if some other *Magnolia* should be the champion in size and age. This species of *Magnolia* is a noted symbol of the Deep South, and many people from out of the state should not be denied visiting and seeing such a specimen.

Many large limbs, as they grow some distances from the trunk, are now resting on the ground, and some have taken root.

If you are interested in seeing that this tree is not destroyed, write your expression to the News-Examiner.

I am grateful to Mrs. H. Massey, of 1007 Wilson Avenue, Tifton, for calling my attention to this giant tree.

Mr. Collins (not a military man) writes a regular column, "Horticulture Notes and Comments," for the News-Examiner and another south Georgia newspaper, and has recently given some publicity to our Society and its upcoming meeting at Mobile. In enclosing letter with the above copy, he wrote, "I felt sure that you would be interested. Although this one might not be the champion, it's big enough, for sure."

"It is located just south of the Tifton Industrial Park, and Editor Raley believes the land is owned by the Industrial Authority. At least one member of this authority is not in the least interested in our arboretum, or any of nature's bountiful gifts, except perhaps to eat well of foods given up by nature."

"Some of the Garden Club ladies seem to think that perhaps I can do something about preserving it, which I can't, at least by myself. I believe the tourist attraction thought might help with the Chamber of Commerce, and the many Motor Court members. These are, of course, random thoughts, and not to be considered conclusion by any means. . ."

Tifton is situated between the communities of Ty Ty and Enigma, Georgia. More important from the viewpoint of tourists, it is on Interstate Highway 75, now the main channel for motor traffic between the Midwest and Florida. Many sightseers, if they knew of the giant *Magnolia*, and had directions to it, would break their trip

at Tifton and perhaps gladden one of the Motor Courts, in addition to the Tifton Chamber of Commerce. Our members, of course, should be eager to see such a magnificent *M. grandiflora* tree preserved and protected. To promote this good cause, I suggest you send a letter to The News-Examiner, Tifton, Ga. 31794.—J. C. McD.

Letter to the Editor

Considering the Editor's request for more detailed experience growing and flowering *Magnolias*, I contribute the following short resumé on the 1969 flowering season for the West Coast. As previously reported, we viewed Strybing Arboretum in February which is surely the Mecca of *M. Campbellii* in the United States. Particularly impressive, were huge flower buds and in generous quantities on 10' and 12' trees of *M. Campbellii* 'Strybing White'. The benign climate of San Francisco apparently brings this form into flowering maturity at a much earlier age than the cooler Willamette Valley, and in English gardens. The large display of *M. Campbellii* in various shades of pink was indeed impressive and enjoyable.

Most surprising and delightful in our Eugene-Portland area was a mild spring with perfectly ideal flowering conditions for the 40 odd species and forms which we grow successfully. All this following a record January snow of 32" and lows of 5° makes one happy to be growing these fine plants.

Mrs. Jane Kerr Platt of the West Portland hills, bloomed very successfully her exquisite form of *M. Sargentiana robusta*. Her 20' tree flowered perfectly proportioned 12" shell pink flowers from terminal down to ground level. The buds of this one emerging from their last protective coats are simply beautiful. Also viewed on this day in mid-March, was a tree of *M. Campbellii* 'Alba' at the old Peter Kerr estate (Elk Rock) now the Bishop's Close near Lake Oswego. This 30' tree put on a great display of perfectly formed white flowers.

Locally, we enjoyed excellent flowering of the Hendricks Park *M. Campbellii*, my own *Dawsoniana* and many others of the Asiatics. Devoid of any significant frost, the season continued from many *Yulania* and *Buergeria* to perfect *M. pyramidata*, *M. × Thompsoniana*, *M. Wilsonii*, *M. Sieboldii*, *M. × Watsonii* and *M. sinensis*.

Joseph Witt, of the University of Washington Arboretum at Seattle, tells me their flowering season on their outstanding collection of *Magnolias* progressed in excellent shape. I must fully concur with Joe that we experienced a unique series of climatic conditions to be able to sustain this rough winter and still suffer minimal damage. Our encounter with 5° coming in January was in the peak of dormancy and had it come a month later or earlier, we would surely have suffered loss of flower buds and damage to trees.

Dr. Paul Bowman of Fort Bragg California reports a most successful flowering season and also tells me that he has attempted some hybridization of his fine Asiatics.

James Gossler
Springfield, Oregon

Annual Meeting

The third annual meeting of the Magnolia Society will take place in Mobile, Alabama, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 22-24.

The meeting will be held in the new Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge at the intersection of Routes 165 and U.S. 90 on the western edge of Mobile.

The following rates have been quoted by Mr. David Young, Manager of the Lodge:

One person	\$11.00
Two persons	14.00
Two persons with 2 beds	16.00
Three persons	18.00
Four persons	20.00
No charge for children.	

Pre-registration to facilitate advance planning is suggested.

The scheduling of our Meeting in this area at this season will enable those present to observe the range of variation of *Magnolia grandiflora* both in cultivation and in the wild.

New Cultivar Names

THE FOLLOWING NEW MAGNOLIA CULTIVARS have been recorded with the Registration Authority since the appearance of the last issue of the NEWSLETTER:

M. 'Ann'. *M. liliflora* 'Nigra' × *M. stellata*.

M. 'Betty'. *M. liliflora* 'Nigra' × *M. stellata* 'Rosea'.

M. 'Jane'. *M. liliflora* 'Reflorescens' × *M. stellata* 'Water Lily'.

M. 'Judy'. *M. liliflora* 'Nigra' × *M. stellata*.

M. 'Pinkie'. *M. liliflora* 'Reflorescens' × *M. stellata* 'Rosea'.

M. 'Randy'. *M. liliflora* 'Nigra' × *M. stellata*.

M. 'Rickie'. *M. liliflora* 'Nigra' × *M. stellata*.

M. 'Susan'. *M. liliflora* 'Nigra' × *M. stellata* 'Rosea'.

The preceding eight cultivars were produced at the U.S. National Arboretum and were described by T. R. Dudley and W. F. Kosar in the Morris Arboretum Bulletin, Vol. 19, 26-29, 1968.

M. × *Loebneri* 'Spring Snow'. Probably *M. stellata* × *M. Kobus*. Produced by J. C. McDaniel. Described in 1968 in the catalogs of Tennessee Valley Nursery, Winchester, Tenn., and Treseder's Nurseries Ltd., Truro, Cornwall, England.

M. × *Loebneri* 'Ballerina'. *M.* × *Loebneri* 'Spring Snow' × (possibly) *M. stellata* 'Water Lily'. Produced by J. C. McDaniel. Described in Illinois State Nurserymen's Association Newsletter, June 1969.

M. × 'Evamaria'. *M. acuminata* × *M. liliflora* 'Nigra'. Originated at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Plant Patent No. 2820.

Seventeen Magnolias U.S.A.

JOSEPH C. McDANIEL
Urbana, Illinois

AMERICAN MAGNOLIAS ARE NATIVE near most but not all the numerous towns having the name "Magnolia" or some combination of it. Alabama, with at least six of the eight U. S. species growing wild within its borders, is perhaps the state where more different ones can be seen. Appropriately, it has post offices named Magnolia (36754), Magnolia Springs (36555), and Magnolia Terminal (36755).

Texas duplicates Alabama's first two, Magnolia (77355) and Magnolia Springs (75957). Other "Magnolia" post offices are listed by the American Zip Code Company for the states of Arkansas (71753), Delaware (19962), Illinois (61336), Iowa (51550), Kentucky (42757), Maryland (21101), Minnesota (56158), Mississippi (39652), New Jersey (08049), North Carolina, (28453), and Ohio (44643). The Magnolia in Massachusetts (with the northernmost wild *M. virginiana*) is a substation of the Gloucester post office (01930).

A few *M.* × *Soulangiana* trees grow in Magnolia, Illinois, and that may be true of Magnolia, Iowa. The Minnesota town could probably cultivate *M. Kobus* and *M. acuminata*, while the ones in Ohio and Kentucky would have a wider range of species.

It would be interesting to trace the origin of these place names more fully. The Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota towns probably adopted the name for its pleasant sound. Those in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland are, or were, associated with stands of *M. virginiana*. The Arkansas town is considered not to be in native *M. grandiflora* territory, like those in Texas, Mississippi and Alabama, but there are big trees in it dating from about the time of settlement.

Annual Dues

Dues for 1970 are now payable to our Treasurer, Mr. Philip J. Savage, Jr., 2150 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013.

Members are reminded that, because of increased costs in every area of our operation, dues were raised from \$2.00 to \$4.00 a year at our meeting in San Francisco.

At Last

Our latest List of Bud-grafted Magnolias
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and 11 Hybrids

with 60 Clones and Cultivars

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President's Paragraphs

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A *Magnolia Sprengeri* 'Diva' in Urbana, Illinois, may be setting something of a record. It shows its first dormant flower buds less than three years after it was propagated. Ordinarily, the still-rare *Sprengeri* is one of the slower hardy tree Magnolias to reward the planter with flowers, often remaining purely vegetative for eight to ten years. The speed-up in this instance was accomplished by chip-budding in August 1966, at six to seven feet high on branches of an established *Soulangiana*. The 'Diva' thus is "riding on the shoulders" of a tree that had been flowering for several years.

My source of 'Diva' (best regarded as a cultivar rather than a botanical variety of the *Sprengeri* species) was a grafted tree imported from England about 1959 by George O. Slankard, Sesser, Illinois. His tree has grown well, but did not flower until the spring of 1969. Two 'Diva' trees imported from England a year earlier were more than 20 feet tall when they first flowered this year at Audubon Park, Memphis, Tennessee.

The chip-budding technique, developed over several decades by various fruit and nut-tree propagators for "difficult" hardwood material, I have found generally advantageous over ordinary T-budding, in percentage of "take," particularly when the bark is tight. It can be used from early spring until a few weeks before fall frost. Bud-unions obtained tend to be smoother, and initial growth from the bud more vigorous.

Two recent refinements contributing to successful budding are an overwrap with plastic (polyethylene, etc.) films, and the inclusion of a portion of leaf with the bud-piece. Both practices seem to promote quicker union of bud with stock. Time and space prevent a full description here, but readers can write to me for the University of Illinois leaflet on "Chip-Budding."

If your space is limited, you can bud different species or varieties for test on branches of the same stock, and have a concentrated Magnolia collection on one or two trees. Though good success is reported (in California) for grafting across the subgeneric division, I've stuck with *Pleurochasma* species and hybrids for *Soulangiana* and *acuminata* stocks, while budding *hypoleuca*, *officinalis* var. *biloba*, and the *Thompsoniana* hybrids on *tripe-tala* stocks. *M. grandiflora* is compatible with Latin American species of its section where they are hardy, and with such *grandiflora* hybrids as 'Freeman'.

C. S. Sargent once wrote that *M. virginiana* (presumably in the Boston area) did better on *M. acuminata* than on its own roots. Has any member tried or seen such a grafted tree?

Own-rooted Magnolia trees may generally be the best in the long run for general planting, particularly by the people who will not notice, or take the time to prune out, the occasional (or sometimes frequent) sucker arising from an understock. I have seen *M. stellata rubra*, even in a nursery, largely suppressed by stronger growing suckers from the *Kobus* understock. Fortunately, most nursery propagation of *stellata* and *Loebneri*, along with *Soulangiana* cultivars, is now by the rooted cutting method. At least one American propagator, though, in switching from grafts to cuttings, seems to have mixed ordinary *Kobus* cuttings from an understock sucker with his vegetatively similar *Loebneri* 'Merrill'.

Who has a pure white flowering *M. macrophylla* growing in a northern state? This seems to be the prevailing color form in the species in the Deep South, including much of Alabama, westward to the northeast Louisiana parishes. Sarah Gladney tells me that the form with purple markings on the inner tepals reappears north of Alexandria, Louisiana. I have never seen an unspotted *macrophylla* flower in the woods of Tennessee or Kentucky, but have not checked out the situation in Georgia and the eastern Carolinas. The related *M. Ashei* (western Florida sources) also has markings on its inner tepals, but is more weakly pigmented than the Tennessee-Kentucky *macrophylla*.

A few breeders recently have been crossing diploids of section Buergeria (*stellata*, *Kobus*, *salicifolia*) with hexaploids of section Yulania (*Campbelli*, *denudata*, *Sargentiana*, etc.) and with some success. Dr. Frank B. Galyon in Tennessee is far enough along to have *denudata* × *stellata* hybrids showing numerous buds for flowering in 1970. My lone *stellata* 'Waterlily' × *denudata* hybrid seedling in its first year looks most like its pollen parent. So, surprisingly, do Galyon's, where the cross went in the reciprocal direction. Joseph A. Witt at the University of Washington Arboretum has been pollinating *Kobus* × *Sargentiana robusta*. He reports that slugs consumed his first lot of hybrids in the seed flat, but he has more seeds this year which may fare better. I'd like to see *stellata* × *Sprengeri* hybrids, but the one year I tried this cross, the few seedlings came apparently pure *stellata*. *Cylindrica* × *Dawsoniana* would be another interesting cross to try.

M. Dawsoniana, incidentally, sets seeds so rarely in America (due perhaps to high self-incompatibility) that I know of no seedling from it yet to flowering size. Dr. Paul Bowman and his wife have started some open-pollinated *Dawsoniana* seedlings at Fort Bragg, California, and I now have three seedlings from a few seeds found on a San Francisco tree a year ago. The Bowmans this year had a plump fruit developing from hand crossing *Dawsoniana* × *Sargentiana robusta*, until some visitor to their garden broke the branch on which it was attached. They, too, expect to try again.